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NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



[This department has a two-fold purpose,—to keep nurses in this country in touch with the work of missionary nurses, and to put missionary nurses in touch with each other, for an interchange of ideas, questions, and suggestions. All nurses engaged in mission work, of every creed and country, are invited to contribute to its columns.]

SEOUL, Korea, Aug. 5, 1910.

I OFTEN look longingly at the announcements of nurses' conventions, superintendents' meetings, associated alumnae gatherings, etc., and wish I could meet many of you dear women who are prominent in the nursing world. I hope that I may do so on my next furlough.

Miss Ella Burpee came to Seoul for only two years, so she left us early in May, going home by Europe. She fitted into all the work so beautifully, both that which was done for the Koreans and for the foreigners. We were so sorry to have her leave us. Miss Helen Forsyth, of Toronto, has been appointed to this hospital, but she is taking six months' post-graduate course at Bellevue before coming. We shall be glad indeed when she comes.

We had our first and only graduate ready to receive her diploma on June 10. We met with a few friends on a part of the hospital lawn, Dr. Avison presided, Dr. Kim Pil Soon, a member of the faculty and the translator of Miss Kimber's "Anatomy and Physiology for Nurses," gave an address in Korean; Mr. O. C. Gould, deputy consul for the United States at Seoul, also addressed us; Dr. Mary Cutter, of the Methodist Mission, gave a helpful talk, and Dr. Avison also gave us some appropriate counsel. I had the pleasure of presenting the diploma and school pin. We have the confidence that Miss Bessie Carnahan Kim, the recipient, had earned them, and that she is a thoroughly good nurse. We hope to have her come back to us in September to help as head nurse in the hospital and to teach some of the classes in nursing. She has studied English, translated some important chapters from text-books in nursing, and we count upon her doing much important work in the profession.

A recent case of special interest was that of a little Korean woman who was brought to the hospital for care, and only Cæsarean section saved her life and that of the baby daughter. They went home well the 14th day after operation. We've had good reports from them since.

Vacation changes are going on on the hospital compound. Some buildings were removed to clear the site for the new medical college, and

the grading and digging for foundation is now in progress. The material which had been in the chapel was added to our temporary home for Korean nurses. A new church is to be built of material which had been in one of the old palaces. Some new and very good anatomical models for the use of the medical college came from Paris a short time ago. On June 30, as a mark of appreciation of Dr. Avison's long continued and earnest effort to put the college work on a firm basis, a "beginning subscription" to an endowment fund was made at a little celebration of his 50th birthday. There were only a few and small subscriptions from several Korean and American friends, but there was very short notice of the birthday party on the hospital lawn. Dr. Hong, a graduate, presided while a little formal speech-making was going on. We hope the small beginning may only precede as many other contributions as are needed to make the large amount required.

In June we organized a Severance Hospital Nurses' Association, all the officers and members being the Korean pupils or graduate nurses. They have enjoyed very much the several meetings they've had, and I'm sure will profit by the association. Koreans love to talk, and they can talk very well indeed. "How can the dispensary nurse help her patients spiritually and physically, besides her daily treatment," was the topic for discussion one evening, and "Personal Hygiene" on another evening.

We are having pleasant weather these days with cooler winds than are usual this season. We did have several weeks of Korea's rainy season. The climate of Korea, in general, is very delightful. Clear cold in the north in winter, and the most perfect autumn days are a never-failing preliminary.

Hoping that you are well and strong again, and thanking every one who has a hand in making our good AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, I am,

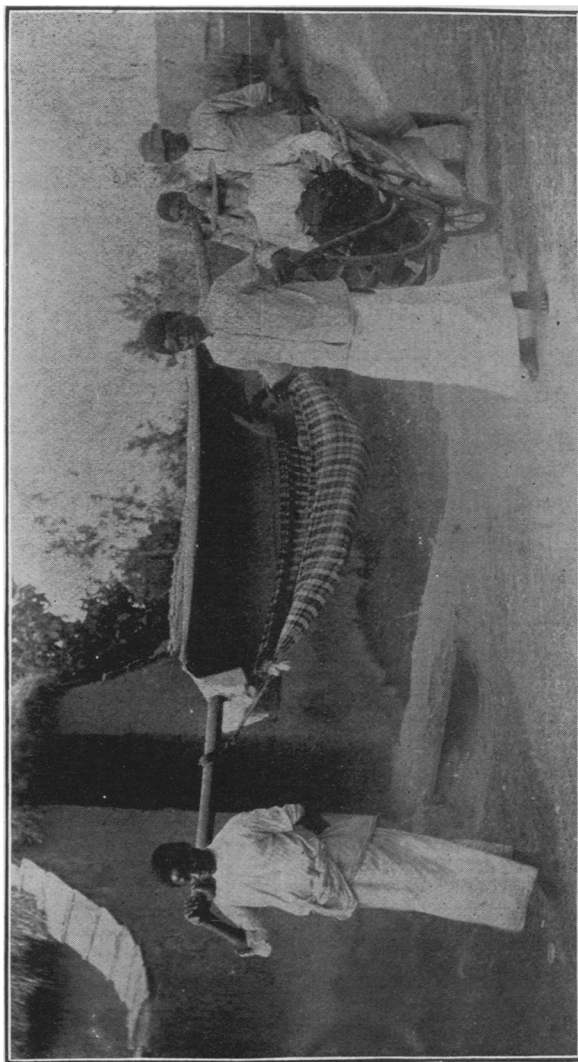
ESTHER LUCAS SHIELDS.

BENGUELLA ANGOLA, Africa, September 23.

Miss DeWitt asked me if I attended the women in confinement. Up to the time of receiving her letter I had had no obstetrical cases. Since then I have been called in for the third stage of labor in three cases. Everything has been tried to induce the natives to call us at time of confinement, but they will not do it. Labor cases are, with rare exceptions, perfectly normal. The women work in the fields until the time of the birth, and in many cases the child is born in the field. The pain is almost nothing in comparison with what our women suffer, and lasts but an hour or two, except in primiparæ.



June 10, 1910, day of graduating of one nurse, Bessie C. Kim,
from Severance Hospital Training School for Nurses, Seoul, Korea.



TWO MODES OF WEST AFRICAN TRAVEL; A TEPOIA AND AFRICAN MONOCYCLE.

I was very curious to see how an obstetrical case was carried on here and was glad to have my curiosity satisfied in some measure. I was awakened early one morning by a rap at my door and, on opening it, found a young man, who said, "At my house they want you." I asked what the trouble was at his house. He said his wife had given birth to a child, but something was lacking. I hurried to his house. The patient was in the kitchen, a one-roomed house by itself, and generally used for a lying-in room. The room was small and my first impression was that it was filled to overflowing with women, each one nursing a baby. In the middle of the room was a wood fire with plenty of smoke. The patient, in her wedding clothes, was sitting on a mat, supported from behind by a woman. In front of her, in a pool of water and blood on the bare earthen floor, with nothing over him, lay the baby. They do not cut the cord until the placenta comes. It was then five in the morning and, as near as I could find out, the baby was born before midnight, and had been lying there all that time. I expressed the placenta without any trouble by the Créde method.

My second case was rather interesting for several reasons. I had just returned from a four weeks' visit in one of our out stations; during that time I neither saw a white face nor heard a word of English. While there one morning a man came to say that a messenger had come from a heathen village some distance away to ask for medicine for a sick woman. After some questioning, I learned that the woman had given birth to a still-born child four days before, and the placenta was still retained. I told the man there was no medicine to send, but if they would find me carriers I would go. Our usual mode of conveyance here is a tepoia, which is a hammock swung on a pole and carried by two men. I got together what I had with me in the way of necessary articles and we started. After two hours of rapid travelling—rapid for us—we arrived. I cannot picture to you the dirt and filth of that kitchen. It was my first experience with raw heathen people, and my recollections of Chicago Ghetto dirt faded immediately. I had wondered if the dead baby would be still attached to the cord but it was not. The room was full of women. I turned out all but three. I tried to express the placenta, but without avail. There was nothing left, apparently, but to take it manually. I scrubbed her up and myself as best I could and proceeded, wondering all the time if I were doing something very wrong. The odor was dreadful and it took all my efforts to keep from vomiting. The placenta came away in little pieces, and I was not sure I had gotten all of it. When I had finished the woman sat up by the fire and said she felt better than she had for the last four days. I told them

to send some one for medicine the next day and to report her condition, but no one came. I learned later, however, that she was well and around again.

It is very up-hill work with the natives here, at times I feel that the responsibility is more than I can possibly bear; but this last year I have learned that God never increases the burden without increasing the strength to bear it. One cannot depend on the natives doing anything they are told. For that reason I hesitate to give them the treatment for hook-worm, and never do it without fear and trembling until the danger is past. Considering how uncleanly they are, and what unwholesome food they eat, they have very little sickness. We could have a number of surgical cases if we had a doctor to operate. As it is I have attempted a few little things in the way of sewing up bad wounds and cutting out old ulcers. I am hoping and praying that the time will come when we can have a doctor.

HELEN HURLBURT STOVER.

BOOKS FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS.—As a memorial to Hon. Patrick A. Collins, the sum of \$2321 has been set aside for the purpose of supplying the patients at the Boston City Hospital with reading matter. It will be known as the Collins Memorial Library. This money was left from the Collins Memorial Fund, and the committee having the fund in hand was desirous that it be used for this purpose, stipulating, however, that \$1800 be spent for books and bookcases, and \$500 be deposited with the city treasurer and invested, the interest to be spent annually for the purchase of new books for the patients.

ON the Day of Judgment God will not ask what creed we profess but what good we did. On that day we shall find that an ounce of mutual good-will is worth a ton of the differences that divide us.

JOSEPH KRAUSKOPF